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Campers on Mission goal: share Jesus

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

There's only one thing Mississippi Baptist members of Campers on Mission enjoy more than loading up their recreational vehicles and hitting the road, and that's getting Kingdom work done in the process.

"Our goal is to share Christ through our travels," said Betty McCrimmon, a member of Union Church, Picayune, who has been involved in Campers on Mission for 12 years and was attending the state organization's annual rally the weekend of August 2-4 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. "We enjoy the sweet fellowship, too."

It's a wonder the campers have any spare time for fellowship. Whether as individuals on mission or as an organized group of campers, they have traveled throughout North America, Mexico and Alaska, to tackle construction projects, Vacation Bible Schools, disaster relief, and anti-poverty projects — all in the name of Jesus.

"We like to help people who can't help themselves," said Rudy Hurst, a member of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, and a camper on mission for more than 20 years.

In addition, Campers on Mission holds revival services at no charge for small churches that otherwise could not afford to host revivals.

"No one gets paid, but we have so many retired preachers in this organization that we had to find them something to do," joked Ricky Youngblood, a member of Temple Church, Big Point, who has been involved with Campers on Mission for 11 years.

"The Lord has truly blessed us with great preachers in Campers on Mission."

Youngblood said campers provide both preaching and music worship for the small church revivals. During the annual rally at Central Hills Retreat, the campers were holding revival services at nearby Jerusalem Church outside Kosciusko with a different preacher each night.

"So many small churches don't have musicians as members and can't afford to go out and hire musicians," said Youngblood, who coordinates the worship through music during revivals and leads the singing nightly.

"It feels so good to them — and to us — to have musicians in their churches. They just appreciate it so much."



CAMP MEETING — Members of the Mississippi chapter of Campers on Mission make plans for the evening during their annual state rally August 3 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. Among the campers at the event were (from left) Frances Allen of Ridgeland, Rudy Hurst of Biloxi, Betty McCrimmon of Picayune, Ricky Youngblood of Big Point, Edwin Baker of Ecu, and Jerry Estes of Shannon. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Edwin Baker, a retired Mississippi Highway Patrolman and member of Cherry Creek Church, Ecu, currently serves as president of the Mississippi chapter of Campers on Mission. He has been involved in the camping ministry for 10 years. Beverly Ellis, a member of Bowmar Church, Vicksburg, is vice-president, and Edith Youngblood, a member of Temple Church, Big Point, and Ricky Youngblood's wife, serves as secretary.

In the last few years, Campers on Mission has helped build modern lodges at Central Hills Retreat and two recreational vehicle parks south of Waynesboro, among many projects. They continue to be heavily involved in the long-term relief and rebuilding effort that has been ongoing since Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast in late August 2005.

"We do go out of state, but we consider Mississippi our home base," Hurst said.

Frances Allen, a member of First Church, Ridgeland, and a camper on mission for 21 years, echoed Hurst's comments. "We do missions in other places, but one thing that appealed to me was being able to do missions close to home, too," she said.

To that end, Youngblood has personally installed six hook-ups on his own property in Jackson County — complete with water, electricity, and sewer connections — so that campers on mission from across the country will have a place to park their rigs while ministering along the post-Katrina Gulf Coast.

"They're welcome to park there as long as they're on mission," he said.

The Mississippi chapter of Campers on Mission, which was recognized with Chapter of the Year honors in 2005 by the national Campers on Mission organization, has about 100 members. The national organization, which is coordinated by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has about 7,000 members in 26 chapters nationwide.

Anyone who loves the Lord and can support his/her own travel is welcome in the Mississippi chapter, said Jerry Estes, a retired pastor and member of First Church, Shannon, who has been involved with Campers on Mission for about three years.

"Campers on Mission is non-denominational, but everyone who participates must have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior," Estes said.

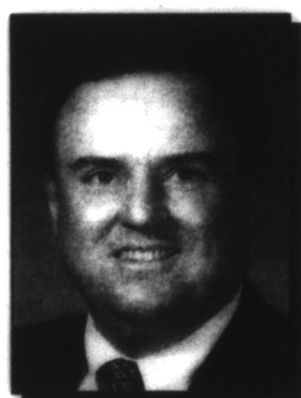
"We welcome anyone to visit with us and see what we're all about," Youngblood added.

The Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board helps coordinate Campers on Mission activities in the state. Youngblood recommended contacting the Men's Ministry Department for information on current projects, revivals, and camping rallies.

The Men's Ministry Department can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-2335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.



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Mississippi's folly

Warren Buffett is one of the most revered names in the history of the American business and investment communities. The son of a Congressman and graduate of both the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University in New York City, his every public pronouncement is monitored by the largest and most astute financial institutions in the world.

The 77-year-old billionaire, a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, heads a company called Berkshire Hathaway. Not too long ago, a single share of Berkshire Hathaway stock was worth \$80,000. A single share. Buffett's holdings include massive stakes in such household names as Coca-Cola and Fruit of the Loom. Fellow billionaire Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, is his good friend and Bridge partner.

It's an understatement to say that every serious investor on the globe hangs on his every word. He has proven himself time and again to be one of the best businessmen and investors in this country's history. It would therefore be logical to listen when he speaks — and he has a lot to say about the folly of legalized gambling.

Buffett has bluntly spoken out over recent years as his home state of Nebraska has struggled against the juggernaut of its own gambling/political complex. Here's a sampling, courtesy of the Nebraska anti-gambling organization, Gambling with the Good Life:

• "There's no way that the citizens of Nebraska won't be losers if you have casinos here."

• "I think for the state of Nebraska particularly, the state I love — my family's been here since the 1860s — I think for the state to essentially prey upon its citizens, create more of the addictions, I just think it's wrong."

• "I think it's cynical on the part of the state to raise money from people who basically can't afford it by promising them a dream that is not going to come true for any but the tiniest, tiniest fraction of the people who participate, and that causes people to get into the kind of trouble I hear about every day."

• "You're teaching your citizenry all the time by the actions you take as legislators and as administrators of a state like this. Essentially to teach you that the state is on the other side of the transaction from — they're trying to get you to do something dumb — I just think the state ought to be doing things for its citizens, not do something to its citizens."

• "In the end, the state of Nebraska can be on the side of its citizenry instead of figuring

out ways of taking advantage of them. I think that's fundamental to government."

• "All three of my kids learned at an early age, pulling the handle of a slot machine might have been good exercise, but it was bad economics."

• "The argument is made that people are going to Iowa (to gamble in casinos). I would say this. If you had a house with a nice lawn, and you had a neighbor and they had a Chihuahua, and that dog occasionally strayed over to your lawn and fouled the lawn, your reaction would not be to go out and buy a Saint Bernard. You don't need more of it!"

Mississippi doesn't need more of it either, but that's what we got during the post-Katrina special session of the legislature that legalized land-based casino gambling in the state. It was bad enough to have legalized gambling in the first place, but to relax state law so the gambling halls could creep onshore is even more disgraceful.

The icons of American business understand the foolishness of legalized gambling, so why don't Mississippi's governor and legislators? That's a question only they can answer.

As we approach the second anniversary of that post-Katrina special session when our elected politicians gave the gamblers everything they wanted, perhaps we should be asking them just that question.

How legislators voted on land-based gambling (HB 45)

* denotes member of a Mississippi Baptist church

House of Representatives YE-60 (for land-based gambling)

| Name | City | District |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Akins, Noel* | Oxford | 12 |
| Bailey, Willie | Greenville | 49 |
| Baker, Mark | Brandon | 74 |
| Banks, Earle | Jackson | 67 |
| Bentz, Leonard | Biloxi | 116 |
| Blackmon Jr., Edward | Canton | 57 |
| Broomfield, Billy | Moss Point | 110 |
| Brown, Cecil | Jackson | 66 |
| Burnett, Clara | Tunica | 9 |
| Calhoun, Credell | Jackson | 68 |
| Carlton, Virginia* | Columbia | 100 |
| Clark, Bryant | Pickens | 47 |
| Clarke, Alyce | Jackson | 69 |
| Coleman, Linda | Mound Bayou | 29 |
| Coleman, Mary | Jackson | 65 |
| Comprella, J.P. | Bay St. Louis | 122 |
| Davis, Lee Jarrell | Hattiesburg | 102 |
| Dedeaux, Dirk* | Gulfport | 95 |
| Denny, Bill | Jackson | 64 |
| Espy III, Henry | Clarksdale | 26 |
| Evans, James | Jackson | 70 |
| Flagge Jr., George | Vicksburg | 55 |
| Fredericks, Frances | Gulfport | 110 |
| Guice Jr., Daniel | Ocean Springs | 114 |
| Hamilton, Frank | Hurley | 109 |
| Harrison, Esther | Columbus | 41 |
| Hinds Sr., John | Greenville | 50 |
| Holland, Steve | Plantersville | 16 |
| Holloway Sr., Gregory | Hazlehurst | 76 |
| Ishee, Roger | Gulfport | 118 |
| Janus, Michael | Biloxi | 117 |
| Johnson III, Robert | Natchez | 94 |
| Malone, Bennett | Carthage | 45 |
| Martinson, Rita | Madison | 58 |
| Mayhall Jr., W.T. | Southaven | 40 |
| Mayo, John | Clarksdale | 25 |
| Moak, Bobby* | Bogue Chitto | 53 |
| Moore, John* | Brandon | 60 |
| Morris, Leonard | Batesville | 11 |
| Myers, David | McComb | 98 |
| Norquist, David | Cleveland | 28 |
| Patterson, Randall | Biloxi | 115 |
| Peranich, Diane | Pass Christian | 121 |
| Read, John* | Gautier | 112 |
| Reeves, John* | Jackson | 71 |
| Robinson Jr., Walter | Bolton | 63 |

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|
| Simpson Jr., James* | Pass Christian | 120 |
| Smith, Clayton* | Brandon | 59 |
| Smith, Ferr | Carthage | 27 |
| Snowden, Greg* | Meridian | 83 |
| Staples, Gary | Laurel | 88 |
| Straughter, Rufus | Belzoni | 51 |
| Thomas, Sara | Indianola | 31 |
| Upshaw, Jessica | Diamondhead | 95 |
| Watson, Percy | Hattiesburg | 103 |
| Whittington, May | Schlater | 34 |
| Woods, Tommy | Byhalia | 52 |
| Young Sr., Charles | Meridian | 82 |
| Zuber III, Hank | Ocean Springs | 113 |

NAY-53 (against land-based gambling)

| Name | City | District |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Aldridge, Brian* | Tupelo | 17 |
| Arinder, Tracy | Morton | 75 |
| Baker, Larry* | Senatobia | 8 |
| Barnett, Jim | Brookhaven | 92 |
| Beckett, Jim* | Bruce | 23 |
| Bondurant, Sidney | Grenada | 24 |
| Bounds, Scott* | Philadelphia | 44 |
| Buck, Kelvin | Holly Springs | 5 |
| Chism, Gary* | Columbus | 37 |
| Cummings, Ricky | Iuka | 1 |
| Dickson, Reecy | Macon | 42 |
| Eaton, Bo* | Taylorville | 79 |
| Ellington, Jim* | Raymond | 73 |
| Fillingame, Joey* | Sumrall | 101 |
| Fleming, Erik | Jackson | 72 |
| Formby, Mark* | Picayune | 109 |
| Franks Jr., Jamie | Mooreville | 19 |
| Frierson, Herb* | Poplarville | 106 |
| Gadd, Jack | Hickory Flat | 13 |
| Gibbs, David | West Point | 36 |
| Gregory, James* | Louisville | 43 |
| Gunn, Philip* | Clinton | 56 |
| Hamilton, Eugene | Olive Branch | 6 |
| Horne, Steve* | Meridian | 81 |
| Howell, Bobby* | Kilmichael | 46 |
| Hudson, Joey* | Monticello | 91 |
| Jennings, Wanda | DeSoto | 7 |
| Lott, Mike* | Petal | 104 |
| Markham Jr., J.B. | G'wood Springs | 20 |
| McBride, Warner* | Courtland | 10 |
| McCoy, Billy* | Rienzi | 3 |
| Miles, Bill | Fulton | 21 |
| Mims V. Sam | McComb | 97 |

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----|
| Montgomery, Pat | Pontotoc | 15 |
| Moss, Harvey* | Corinth | 2 |
| Nicholson, Billy* | Little Rock | 78 |
| Parker, Deryk* | Lucedale | 107 |
| Reed, Dannie* | Ackerman | 35 |
| Reynolds, Tommy* | Water Valley | 33 |
| Robinson, Eric* | Quitman | 84 |
| Rogers, Margaret | New Albany | 14 |
| Rogers, Ray | Pearl | 61 |
| Rotenberry, Clinton* | Mendenhall | 22 |
| Smith, Jeff* | Columbus | 39 |
| Stringer, Johnny | Montrose | 87 |
| Sullivan, Preston* | Okolona | 22 |
| Turner, Jerry | Baldwyn | 18 |
| Vince, Robert | Sandy Hook | 99 |
| Walley, Shaun* | Leakesville | 105 |
| Ward, Greg | Ripley | 4 |
| Warren, Joe | Mt. Olive | 90 |
| Weathersby, Tom* | Florence | 62 |
| Wells-Smith, Carmel* | Pascagoula | 111 |

PRESENT

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|----|
| Ellis, Tyrone | Starkville | 38 |
| Perkins Sr., William | Greenwood | 32 |

NOT VOTING

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----|
| Huddleston, Robert | Sumner | 30 |
| Middleton, Chuck | Port Gibson | 85 |
| Scott, Omeria | Laurel | 80 |
| Shows, Bobby* | Ellisville | 89 |

ABSENT

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----|
| Masterson, Chester | Vicksburg | 54 |
|--------------------|-----------|----|

Mississippi Senate

YE-29 (for land-based gambling)

| Name | City | District |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| Albritton, Sid* | Picayune | 40 |
| Brown, Terry* | Columbus | 17 |
| Burton, Terry | Newton | 31 |
| Chaney, Mike | Vicksburg | 23 |
| Clarke, Buck | Hollandale | 22 |
| Cuevas, Scotty | Pass Christian | 46 |
| Davis, Doug* | Hernando | 1 |
| Dawkins, Debbie | Pass Christian | 48 |
| Dearing, Bob* | Natchez | 37 |
| Doxey, Ralph | Holly Springs | 2 |

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----|
| Harden, Alice | Jackson | 28 |
| Hewes III, William | Gulfport | 49 |
| Hohn, John | Jackson | 26 |
| Huggins, Bunky | Greenwood | 14 |
| Jackson, Robert | Marks | 11 |
| Jackson II, Sampson | DeKalb | 32 |
| Jordan, David | Greenwood | 24 |
| Kirby, Dean* | Pearl | 30 |
| Lee, Ezell* | Picayune | 47 |
| Michel, Walter | Jackson | 25 |
| Moffat, Tommy | Gautier | 52 |
| Morgan, Ed* | Hattiesburg | 45 |
| Posey, Lynn* | Union Church | 36 |
| Robertson, Tommy | Moss Point | 51 |
| Ross, Charlie | Brandon | 20 |
| Simmons, William | Cleveland | 13 |
| Thames, Billy* | Mize | 34 |
| Walls Jr., Johnnie | Greenville | 12 |
| Williamson, Gloria | Philadelphia | 18 |

NAY-21 (against land-based gambling)

| Name | City | District |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| Browning, Nickey | Pontotoc | 3 |
| Bryan, Hob* | Amory | 7 |
| Butler, Kelvin | Magnolia | 38 |
| Carmichael, Videt* | Meridian | 33 |
| Flowers, Merle | Southaven | 19 |
| Frazier, Hillman | Jackson | 27 |
| Gordon, Jack* | Okolona | 8 |
| Hyde-Smith, Cindy* | Brookhaven | 39 |
| Jackson, Gary* | French Camp | 15 |
| King Jr., Tom* | Petal | 44 |
| Lee, Perry* | Mendenhall | 35 |
| Little, Travis* | Corinth | 4 |
| Mettetei, Nolan | Sardis | 10 |
| Nunnelee, Alan* | Tupelo | 6 |
| Pickering, Stacey* | Soso | 42 |
| Thomas, Joseph | Yazoo City | 21 |
| Tollison, Gray | Oxford | 9 |
| Turner, Bennie | West Point | 16 |
| Walley, Shannon* | Leakesville | 43 |
| White, Richard* | Terry | 29 |
| Wilemon Jr., J.P. | Belmont | 5 |

PRESENT

| | | |
|----------------|--------|----|
| Goliott, Tommy | Biloxi | 50 |
|----------------|--------|----|

ABSENT

| | | |
|----------------|----------|----|
| Harvey, Billy* | Prentiss | 41 |
|----------------|----------|----|

Teen girls gather to study 'Amazing Life'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — More than 3,000 teenage girls, collegiate young women and leaders were challenged to live the Amazing Life during July 10-13 Blume conference in Kansas City, Mo., sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Taking a holistic approach to serving God and others, Blume was based on Luke 10:27 when Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And, love your neighbor as yourself."

All components of Blume, from general sessions to interactive conferences to hands-on missions and ministry projects, aimed at helping participants gain a deeper understanding of Christ's command.

Keynote speaker Clella Lee of Fayetteville, N.C., used an analogy to the reality TV contest show, The Amazing Race, asking the girls to consider what is necessary to live "The Amazing Life." Her answer, which she and other speakers, including international and North American missionaries, set forth over five general sessions, was to live out Luke 10:27.

"God wants you to have an amazing, fulfilling and purposeful life," Lee told Blume attendees. "That's why He made you and that's why He died for you. The Amazing Life is not a way to life, it's a way of life — and you have to choose it. It is God's plan for you to be God's instrument in the world to carry out His plan just as you are."

At the conclusion of the evening general session July 12, 81 girls came forward during an invitation time, with 10 making professions of faith, 26 indicating that God was leading them into missions as a life direction, and many others rededicating their life to Christ or wanting someone to pray with them about a specific need or decision.

As part of the breakout sessions, an elaborate interactive area called "ME" provided attendees with opportunities to learn more about various ministries, join in hands-on missions efforts, experience different cultures and explore how they can use their gifts and passions to further the Kingdom of God.

In exhibits like A Day in the Life, they could experience what life is like for girls their age in countries across the world. Entering this marketplace exhibit in small groups, each girl was given a profile of their new identity along with "Blume bucks" which represented a typical sum of money she might have, ranging from 10 cents to \$650.

The girls had 10 minutes to make purchases in the market based on their allowance, with choices of food, personal care items, clothes, transportation, entertainment, and school supplies.



AMAZING LIFE — More than 3,000 teenage girls and young women gathered in mid-July in Kansas City, Mo., for Blume, a national conference sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention and previously known as the National Acteens Convention. (BP photo by Angela Needs)

Those with limited means realized the hardships many face as they struggle to obtain basic necessities. As they exited the exhibit, a volunteer reviewed some of the purchases the girls made, talked about the realities of poverty and encouraged the group to keep their identity card as a prayer reminder.

Girls visited with missionaries serving with the International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) along "Missionary Row," and many sent e-mails to international missionaries and wrote "encouragements" to NAMB field personnel.

In another exhibit area, the girls could write letters of support to U.S. military personnel and spend time in prayer for the recipient of each letter. "I told them thank you for fighting for our country and freedom," said Lindsey Allsup, a 10th-grader from Acton Church in Granbury, Texas, "and that God loves them."

The exhibits also showed how God can use any passion and willing heart to further His Kingdom. IMB field personnel Margie Drane and Sue Sprengle, for example, demonstrated how they use their passion for videography and journalism, respectively, to share Christ through stories of how He is working around the world. Participants were able to join in mock interviews and operate the video camera.

The girls enjoyed other areas that were set up just for fun, like a karaoke stage, scrapbooking, a coffee shop, staged photo opportunities, and a giant inflatable obstacle course.

Of the 100 collegiate girls who attended Blume, 25

walked more than a mile to the Kansas City Rescue Mission, a men's shelter and soup kitchen in the heart of the city. As part of a poverty simulation, they stood in line with other shelter guests to get their food, then later spent the night on the floor of a warehouse across the street.

"It was nice to put faces to this issue [of poverty]," said Rachel Gerke, a member of Reynoldsburg Church in Columbus, Ohio. "We talk about the marginalized, but it was cool to actually sit and talk with them. It was humbling. It's easy to think we have it all together, and we may have a good heart or we may think we have it better than them. But I don't have anything on my own. It's all of God."

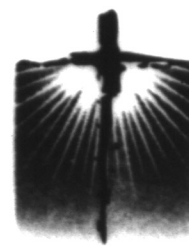
Blume also included "A Night in the Middle East" outdoor cross-cultural experience which transformed the lawn of the Kansas City

Convention Center into a Middle Eastern market. With instrumental music in the air, the girls could sample such foods as baklava and hummus, write their names in the Persian alphabet and spend time in prayer for the various peoples of the Middle East.

The event ended with the showing of a recent film about the biblical Esther, One Night with the King.

As part of Blume, girls were given a "5 Ways of Giving" opportunity to put their faith into action by learning about and supporting five different ministries — Blood:Water Mission in Africa; Beginning of Life Foundation in Moldova; The Ricks Institute in Liberia; a ministry in Jordan that helps Arab women; and Locks of Love.

The next Blume, previously known as the National Acteens Convention, is planned for the summer of 2011 in Orlando, Fla.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippians David and Mary Sills are reappointed as missionaries by the International Mission Board. They join the nearly 4,200 IMB workers sharing Christ in 127 countries among 336 ethnic people groups.

20 years ago

Harold Morris, former Georgia death row resident and featured speaker for Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, tells the estimated 9,000 young people gathered at the Mississippi Coliseum to be "selective in who you associate with" and let Jesus direct their lives.

30 years ago

The new girls' dormitory at Clarke Memorial College in Newton is nearing completion. When finished, the dorm will house 120 girls and will be the finest building on the campus.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

LOST IN CHURCH

I have been going to church a lot of years. While I have been the pastor of a number of churches, I have also attended and worshipped with hundreds of congregations. The fact is that I have been lost a number of times while wandering around in a church building trying to find my way. Most churches have little or no signage, and why should they? The reason is that anybody with a little sense can surely find their way around in their church — everybody else does. Occasionally, it is slightly embarrassing.

I remember a few years ago I was to preach at a church to which I had never been before. I drove there on Sunday morning and arrived about 30 minutes before the service was to start. I made my way into the building and because I had been on the road for some time, I felt that it might be wise if I stopped by the restroom. Some of our churches have restrooms at the entryway of their buildings. This one did not. There were no ushers or greeters, so I made my way on into the sanctuary. There were a handful of folks that were kind of scattered through the pews. I nodded and spoke to them as I made my way toward one of the doors on the sides, by the organ and piano. Now being a semi-professional church attendee, I just knew that one of those doors on either side would be like most other churches and form a "U" back behind the choir loft area and baptistery and on that hall there would be restrooms.

I walked toward the door on the left, confidently opened it as though I knew where I was going, and briskly walked right into a cleaning closet. It was not a hallway, not a restroom, but the room where cleaning supplies were kept. Well, there were cleaning supplies and a few other things from Christmas pageants and mission emphases all kept in a tidy fashion. There I stood with nowhere to go except back out into the sanctuary. I



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

opened the door, traipsed on out, and started visiting with the folks that were seated around the sanctuary, wondering if they were wondering, "Why would this guy go in the cleaning closet?" They did not mention it and neither did I. The fact is you can get lost in church.

Another time I was on vacation and since I was going to be in a strange place on a weekend, I went Saturday afternoon to find a Baptist church in the area. I found the buildings and drove around them looking for either a sign that told what time the services would be or someone who would be there taking care of some Saturday afternoon need who could tell me. There were a number of signs around the building, and one of them had the time of the services. Now I was ready for Sunday morning. I knew where I was going, and I knew what time to be there.

The next morning I headed out and ran into my first problem of the day. They had changed the time of the services for the summer months, but they had not changed the sign. The service was in progress, but I thought I could find my way to the worship center. I parked out in the area that appeared to be the main entrance and made my way into the building only to find that there was no one there. I noticed as I entered that the sanctuary seemed to be on a second floor level. There were some stairs so I bounded up them, and I could hear the congregation praising God. I thought I had found the door that led into the auditorium, but I was wrong. It was the

door into the choir loft. Anyone who has ever heard me sing can attest to the fact that was not the place I needed to be. I eased the door shut, made my way out, and walked back down the stairs and around to the other end of the building. Again, no one was there. I found some more stairs and thought I must be in the right place now. Up I went and there were the doors leading into the worship center. I could see that everyone was standing up and the pastor was speaking, so I waited for a more appropriate moment to enter. Out of nowhere, a little kid about nine years old came up the steps and warmly greeted me, jerked the door open, and said, "Come on in and sit down." I said, "I will, but wait just a minute." He said, "No, come on!" It was obvious that he was a natural born greeter, and he certainly felt right at home. I eased in, walked over to where I could sit down, and joined in the service.

We sang some more but it was not very long until the pastor came to the pulpit to deliver his message. It was clear to me that he was not only well prepared in mind but also in heart. It was also obvious that he was lovingly connected to his congregation. Since I was seated at the back of the auditorium, I could see the pastor but I could also see most of the congregation. I watched as most of them listened intently, but the couple right in front of me was especially intriguing. I had never seen them before, but this young man and woman were listening intently to every word that the pastor spoke. I won-

dered who they were and what was going on in their hearts.

As the pastor preached, I listened and prayed for this young couple. The message was concluded and the pastor encouraged the folks to let the Lord have His way in their hearts. He challenged them to say yes to Jesus. Soon we stood to sing the invitation. The young couple joined in and on the second stanza they leaned over, whispered something to each other, and then both of them stepped out and went down the aisle.

There were other decisions being made as well. One couple, a husband and wife, both of them in wheelchairs, made their way down the aisle. I stood there singing and thanking God for the wonderful things that were happening in this family of faith. Though I had never been there before and had a time finding my way, I felt like I was a part of a glorious moment and indeed I was. The young man and woman sitting in front of me during the service were babes in Christ. While I was glad that I had found my way, I could tell that both of them were thrilled that they had found theirs.

I left church genuinely blessed and thinking how many people are lost at church. No, I am not talking about the lost condition that maybe a sign or an arrow pointing in some direction would fix. I am talking about the kind of loss that only the Good News from heaven pointing to Jesus can fix, like the Ethiopian Eunuch who could not find his way. In Acts 8:31 he said to Philip, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" You and I are blessed to be a part week after week and day after day of showing people how they can be found by the wonderful, gentle, and searching Good Shepherd.

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 9, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

It's Your Call! Mission Leadership Training for the Church



Choose from 3 locations

- **Missions Leadership Training**
FBC, Columbia, August 21
- **Missions Leadership Training**
FBC, Olive Branch, August 28
- **Missions Leadership Training**
Camp Garaywa, August 24-25
(Only MLT requiring registration)

- Co-sponsored by Men's Ministry Department and wMu
- For more information on events, contact Tammy Anderson: Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org
- Camp Garaywa training requires a registration for lodging and meals. Registration forms available online at www.mbcb.org (click on events, wMu) or call Alicia Dungan at 601-924-7034 or E-mail adungan@mbcb.org



In concert
August 19
FBC
Natchez
6:00 p.m.

LITERACY MISSIONS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TUTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH - Copiah Baptist Association, Hazlehurst
November 1-3, 2007, Cost - \$25 Deadline to register - October 1
Contact to register 601-894-2024

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STORYING - FBC, Brandon - date TBA

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE - Camp Garaywa - October 4-6, 2007
Basic Workshops (ESL, ARW, TCY) as well as topical seminars

For more information on all the above go to:

www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy/training.aspx or contact Paula Smith at psmith@mbcb.org or 800-748-1651, ext. 336



Ladies!!!

The **wMu State Women's Retreat at Garaywa, October 12-13, 2007, is cancelled** in order for you to attend the **Extraordinary Women's Conference** in Jackson, **October 12-13.**

PLEASE REGISTER WITH Extraordinary Women at 1.800.526.8673.

Extraordinary Women - P.O. Box 739 Forest, VA 24551

<http://www.ewomen.net/conferences/jackson-ms>

If you are interested in lodging at Camp Garaywa with no meals during this conference, please call Alicia Dungan (601-924-7034).

GA
Mother / Daughter
Overnight
September 21-22
and
October 19-20



This is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (grades 1-6) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit.

For more info, contact the wMu at 601-292-3316 or 1-800-748-1651.

The Minister's Health:

**Three Critical Concepts
to Change Your Ministry**

TO REGISTER, CONTACT:

Kay McDonnell at 1.800.748.1651,
ext. 305, or 601.292.3305
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



SPEAKER
Barney Self

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department

August 13

Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

August 14

Lauderdale Association Office
Meridian
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2007 State Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, August 30

Mississippi College, Swor Auditorium

\$1 at door

Speaker: Dennis Swanberg

Music: Visionaries Choir, FBC, Hattiesburg



Swanberg

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

CONFERENCES

• **Fun Time with Rick**

Rick Bewley, juggling, music and magic

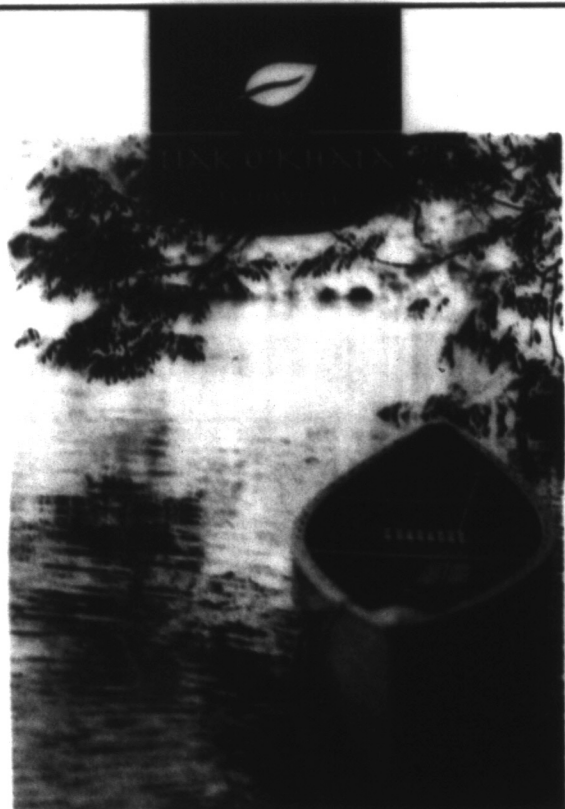
• **Success of Significance for Senior Adults**

Tom Crocker, Memphis, Tenn., LifeWay Consultant

• **Developing a Servant Heart**

Dennis Daniel, Pastoral Care Ministries, FBC, Jackson

To register for meal,
contact Eric Pratt at
MC, 601-925-3235,
fax 601-925-3909,
or E-mail at
epratt@mc.edu.
Deadline to register
for meal is August 23.



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NOVEMBER 5-7



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Richard Ross



Benny Proffitt

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For more info, contact the Discipleship &
Family Ministry Department
601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651
or redwards@mbcb.org

IMPACT YOUR WORLD!

September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko - Gym
Attala Baptist Association

Each church bringing children to
the rally will need an adult sponsor
for every five children, and the
sponsors will remain with the
children throughout the evening.

Featuring - Airhead
(also known as
Perry Robbins)
Music - Lisa Crosby



Children's Discipleship Rally

Family Life Conference

6:30 p.m. Light Meal
7:00 Conferences
• Steps to a Godly Home
Don Hicks, MBCB
• Finances for the Family
Jerry Mixon, MBCB
• Legacy of Love in Marriage
Glenn Shows, MBCB
Sponsored by Lincoln Assn. & MBCB

2007 DISCIPLESHIP Rally

September 16, 6:00 p.m.

MUSIC
The Attala Association
Mass Choir

Discipleship Resource
Exhibits may be viewed
in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

DONNA AINSWORTH
Magee, Miss.
Retired School Librarian
and Trainer for Book Systems, Inc.

KARY BARTH
McKinney, Texas
Regional Manager
Kapco Book Protection

MARY BROUSSARD
Denham Springs, La.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Hebron Baptist Church

HOPE FERGUSON
Natchitoches, La.
Library Ministry Team Leader
First Baptist Church

SANDRA FITTS
Corinth, Miss.
Library Ministry Team Leader
First Baptist Church

CHERYL SWAIN
Madison, Miss.
Library Assistant
First Baptist Church

PEGGY TACON
Mobile, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Dauphin Way Baptist Church

MARTY WOODALL
Deatsville, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Shoal Creek Baptist Church



SPECIAL GUEST Dinner Speaker
Lori Copeland, began her writing
career in 1982, writing for the secular
book market. After several years of writ-
ing, Lori sensed that God was calling her
to use her gift of writing to honor Him. To
date, she has more than 95 books pub-
lished. Learn more about our author from
her Web site: www.loricopeland.com

Mississippi Baptists who are involved in any facet of
the ministry of the church library are invited to join
us in the 36th Annual Mississippi Church Library
Ministry Conference.

Ian Richardson, director
Communication Services

ISSUES FACING PASTORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

1 p.m.
Presentation
on the NOBIS
D.Min.
program

A presentation and dialogue sponsored by

- Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (MBCB)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Our Three Mississippi Baptist Colleges

October 1 – Blue Mountain College
October 22 – William Carey University
October 23 – Mississippi College
Time (all locations): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch provided by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department
Register by contacting Kay McDonnell at 601-292-3305, 601-714-7426
or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

IMPACT OUR WORLD!

Atalla Baptist Association
September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko
Building!



SPEAKER
Gary Permenter



MUSIC
Kevin Williams

Discipleship Resource
Exhibits may be viewed
in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.

*Worship
Rally*

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RA DAY
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For exceptional persons (12 years and older), their
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SEPTEMBER 7-8
CAMP GARAYWA



THEME: GAME DAY CENTRAL

There will be games, Bible study, singing, movies, and lots of fun
for all participants. Registration begins at 3 p.m. on September 7
and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on September 8.

COST: \$37.50 PER PERSON

This includes overnight lodging and three meals.
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Sponsored by the Sunday School Department
For more info, contact Shelley Hollingsworth, 601-292-3292

36TH ANNUAL CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

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CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

OCTOBER 5-6, 2007

Registration Deadline
September 21, 2007

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BROOKHAVEN, MISS.

For more info, contact
Communication Services
1-800-748-1651
601-292-3378
jchen@mbcb.org

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTIONS AND LEADERS

LEADER: Hope Ferguson

- VISUAL PROMOTION
- PROMOTION IN MOTION
- DEVELOPING YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY
MINISTRY TEAM

LEADER: Peggy Tacon

- ADVANCED DEWEY AND SEARS
- CIRCULATION ACTIONS — MEETING NEEDS
- INTRODUCTION TO DEWEY AND SEARS

LEADER: Marty Woodall

- SHARING JESUS THROUGH THE LIBRARY
- MEDIA PREPARATION
- BASIC ADMINISTRATION

LEADER: Sandra Fitts

- I'M A NEW WORKER; WHAT DO I NEED
TO KNOW?
- COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT
- PROMOTION IS ...

LEADER: Kary Barth

- PREVENTION, NOT REPAIR

LEADER: Cheryl Swain

- BASIC CONCOURSE 101

LEADER: Mary Broussard

- RESEARCHING & WRITING YOUR
CHURCH HISTORY
- PROMOTING YOUR CHURCH HISTORY
- KEEPING THE "STUFF"

LEADER: Donna Ainsworth

- BEYOND THE BASICS I: CONCOURSE — NEW
FEATURES & EZCAT AND PERSONALIZING OPAC
- BEYOND THE BASICS II: CONCOURSE —
CATALOGING & PRINT FUNCTIONS
- BEYOND THE BASICS III: CONCOURSE —
CIRCULATION AND INVENTORY FUNCTIONS



Outreach Strategy Tour: Developing True Acts 1:8 Churches



- **FAITH Update**
Dean Abernathy
LifeWay Church
Resources

- **Share Jesus
Without Fear**

Glenn Shows
Discipleship and Family
Ministry Dept., MBCB
Don Hicks
Discipleship and Family
Ministry Dept., MBCB

- **One-Won-1**
P.J. Scott, Pastor Emeritus
FBC, Olive Branch
Mike Aultman, Pastor,
Military Baptist Church
Sumrall

- **GROW**
John Clendinning
Sunday School Department
MBCB

For more information, contact the Sunday School
Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or in Jackson
at 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org.

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Leaders, and anyone
interested in learning
more about these
outreach tools

Time and Place

6:30-8:30 p.m.
(time for two
workshops)

October 8
Crossgates BC
Brandon

October 9
FBC, Pontotoc
October 11
FBC, Summit

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

August 10 - 23, 2007

"God is leading Christians everywhere to shine as beacons of hope and light to their neighborhoods by establishing their homes as Lighthouses of Prayer. As believers, we are to shine Christ's light to a lost and dying world."

NAMB. Alphoretto. GA

The 14 Haitians on the Rural Haiti Team, who are leaders for the chronological Bible storying groups and churches, are on their way for the first time. They are meeting independently of the IMB missionary who is on stateside assignment. Pray that they will be an encouragement to each other, remain faithful, and have God given wisdom in how to deal with problems.

AIDS is claiming many lives in China, where as many as 1 million are infected. Chinese officials are now seeking to harness the spread of the disease through treatment and prevention. Thank God for Christians who seek to minister to those with AIDS. Pray that those suffering will receive needed treatment, and that they will hear about the love of Jesus.

The Buenos Aires Strategy Group writes: "After 30 years of faithful praying and faithful witnessing by IMB missionaries and local believers, A has professed faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. Thank the Lord for the faithfulness of A's wife, AT, team members and members of the Flores Baptist Church to share with and pray for this man for so very long."

Pray for members of a new church in Lenca community, E. in Honduras, as they lead evangelistic Bible studies in two neighboring communities. Pray that the gospel will be clearly communicated, that the Spirit will bring conviction and draw entire families into a personal relationship with the Lord.

(1) CWJC National Certification Training: 14th - 17th, Camp Garaywa (NMU); (2) Thank you for praying for the town of Baranitas, by the Andes Mountains, Western Venezuela. Bible studies and discipleship efforts are continuing. Thank the Lord for those accepting Christ and being discipled. Pray for leaders from this group to consolidate a church.

Scan Lathrop, Honolulu, Hawaii, is the director of new generation ministries for the Hawaii Baptist Convention. Praise God that He is at work among college students in the Pacific. Ask God to increase the number of students who are true disciples and to give more boldness among their peers.

Song Sik Kim is a church starting strategist for the Korean people in Fullerton, CA. Praise God for the start of three new Korean churches including Living Stone Baptist in San Jose, Ca. Please pray for new church planters and their families.

Women are often called the "keepers of religion." Pray that wives and mothers across India will become dissatisfied with Hinduism, Islam and any religion other than faith in Christ, and turn to the Most High.

Continue to pray for the Bible study that Team Paris East has seen grow and develop over the past two years. You prayed for two older French women to cry out for something miraculous to happen in their midst. God has answered, and the study has met monthly. Pray that God will provide a strong national leader to continue the good work.

Ken Belflower is a church planting facilitator for the Arizona Convention. Praise God that 21 churches were started by the Arizona Baptist Convention last year. Pray for new churches for the 100,000 plus people who are moving to Arizona this year.

(1) State Leadership Training for Churches, Central Hills Baptist Retreat (MM); (2) Dave West is the command chaplain for the Special Operations Command Central (27 countries including Iraq and Afghanistan). Pray for service members, Dave as he ministers and for overseas religious support for over 5,000 special operational forces.

The Jewish youth in Israel are becoming more and more secular, forsaking the God of Abraham and their fathers. Crime committed by youths is on the rise. Some are turning to false gods as they travel to Eastern lands in their search. Pray that Israel youth will hear the call of El Shaddai and Jeshua, the Son.

Lift up those from South Korea who are being persecuted for their faith. Pray that they will remain faithful to the Lord and not fall away while suffering for His sake. Pray that the hearts of those persecuting will be conquered by His love, grace and mercy and turn to Him in repentance. Ask that His kingdom will advance for His glory and honor.

(1) Flake's Formula for the Future, FBC, Florence (SS); (2) N and some other women in her neighborhood have been listening to a tape in the Jola language about the birth of Jesus. She also has a cassette tape with several Old Testament stories. Pray that the Jola-Fonyi Team will have opportunities to share more stories from the Bible, especially the story of Jesus.



FLAKE'S FORMULA

A SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE WITH A FOCUS ON MINISTRY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WINONA

SCHEDULE: 9 A.M. TO NOON
AT EACH LOCATION

CONFERENCES WILL BE OFFERED FOR:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| PRESCHOOL LEADERSHIP | CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP |
| STUDENT LEADERSHIP | YOUNGER ADULT LEADERSHIP |
| OLDER ADULT LEADERSHIP | GENERAL OFFICERS/PASTORS |

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT ALL LOCATIONS
DR. JIMMY DRAPER

PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF LIFEWAY
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 291, OR IN JACKSON AT 601-292-3291 OR E-MAIL CDAY@MBCB.ORG.

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Western Europe

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MR. MICAH S. McCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret
CESA

10-5-90

MISS CARLEY MULLINS
Parents: Frank C. (Charles) & Lynn, Spain

10-8-97

MISS CATHERINE A. HODGINS
Parents: Raymond & Cynthia
South America

10-8-90

MISS MELISSA K. SHEARER
Parents: Kevin & Pamela
South America

10-10-94

MR. LUKE LITTLE
Parents: Bob & Amy Little
West Africa

10-28-88

MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK
Parents: Rickey & Lori
West Africa

Due to security reasons full names or region of service may not be published.

Cards will be forwarded.

No magazines or periodicals can be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Rocky Point Church, Carthage



2. Bethel Church, Columbus

1. **Rocky Point Church, Carthage:** Average attendance, 101; two professions of faith; Betty Jenkins, director.
2. **Bethel Church, Columbus:** June 9-12; Walter Butler, pastor.
3. **Branch Church, Morton:** June, with total enrollment of 87.
4. **Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg:** June 18-22; enrollment, 105; average attendance, 93; offerings to Baptist Children's Village. Shown are four generations who attended VBS — Pat Ezell, Paula Headley, Jennifer Headley Haden, and baby Kamryn Grace Haden.
5. **Stepping Stone Church, Port Gibson:** June 18-21; twenty-three children enrolled, with an average attendance of 21.



3. Branch Church, Morton



4. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg

HOMECOMINGS AND REVIVALS

Cairo Church, Ecu: Revival results, July 14-19; one surrendered to full-time Christian service; one profession of faith; two joined by letter; several rededications. Bill Dowdy, pastor.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch: Homecoming, Aug. 12; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon music by choir and soloists; Robert Dottley, speaker.

Concord Church, Choctaw County: Homecoming, Aug. 12; worship, 11 a.m.; Warren D. Hunt, speaker; Revival, Aug. 13-17; 7 p.m. nightly; Roy Hawkins, speaker; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Holcomb Church, Holcomb: Revival, Aug. 12-15; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, speaker; Johnny Little, music; Bob Johnson, pastor.

Holly Grove Church, Simpson County: Homecoming, Aug. 26, singing, 10 a.m.-noon, followed by covered dish dinner and fellowship.

Jerusalem Church, Kosciusko: Homecoming, Aug. 12; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Rick and Athen Parks, leading; Johnny Parks, pastor.

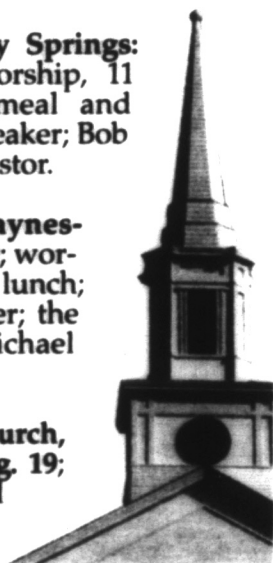
Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville: Homecoming, Aug. 12; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Kenneth Rhodes, speaker.

Lucien Church, Brookhaven: Youth Revival, Aug. 10-11, 7 p.m.; Trey Waldrop, speaker; John Martin, music; Owen King, pastor; for more information, call (601) 757-2403.

New Home Church, Bay Springs: Homecoming, Aug. 12; worship, 11 a.m., followed by noon meal and gospel sing; Harvey Lilly, speaker; Bob Barger, music; Matt Flynt, pastor.

Riverside Church, Waynesboro: Homecoming, Aug. 19; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Marvin "Bo" Farrior, speaker; the Meyers Family, music; Michael Street, pastor.

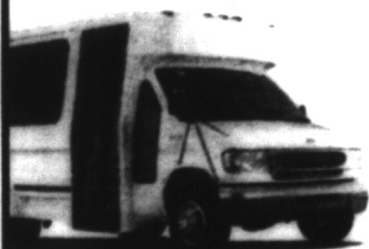
Rolling Creek Church, Quitman: Homecoming, Aug. 19; worship, 10:55 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Billy Brumfield, speaker.



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Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching
2nd Annual Conference

September 11-12, 2007

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Jerry Vines

Retired Pastor, First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Florida, Jerry Vines Ministries



Dr. Herschel York

Associate Dean, Ministry and Proclamation
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Louisville, KY



Dr. James Merritt

Pastor, Crosspointe, The Church at Gwinnett
Center, Duluth, GA



Mrs. Joyce Rogers

Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute
Cordova, TN



Dr. Robert Pitman

Dean, Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching
Pastor, Kirby Woods Baptist Church
Memphis, TN

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(includes lunch and conference materials)

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STATE CHANGES

Williamsburg Church, Williamsburg, has called Scott Flynt as pastor, effective July 15. Flynt and his family are from Soso, and he is completing a degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Main Street Church, Goodman, has called John Parker as pastor effective in April. He and his wife Janet come from First Church, Sledge. Parker will be continuing his education at New Orleans Seminary in the fall.

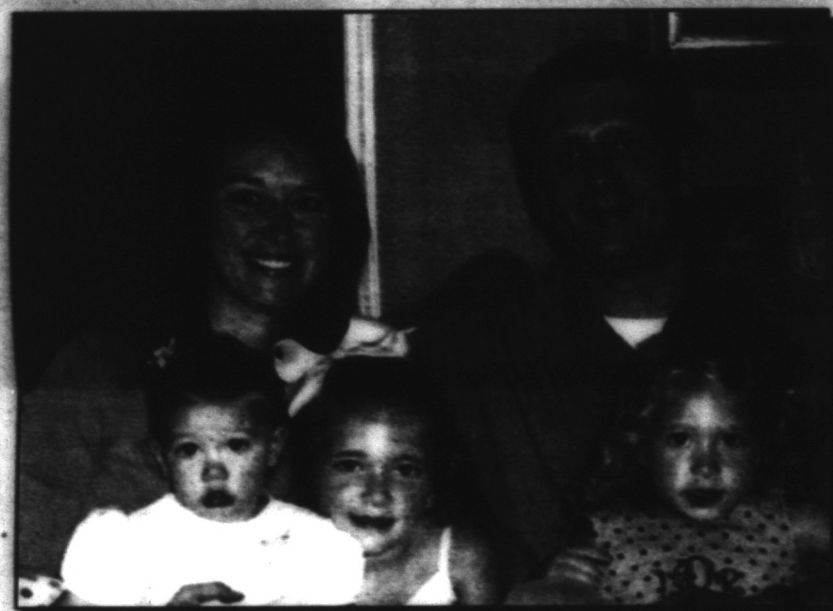


Flynt



Parker and wife Janet

First Church, Lexington, has called Wesley L. Bonner as pastor, effective Aug. 13. He holds degrees from Waynesboro High School, University of Southern Mississippi, and is presently attending New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Trinity have three daughters: Lily, Presley, and Leyton. Shown is the family.



Bonner family

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SENIOR PASTOR: CLEARVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH in the Birmingham, Alabama area is seeking an experienced full-time senior pastor to be responsible for all

aspects of ministry. For consideration, please forward your resume to 5271 Old Springville Road, Pinson, AL 35126 or connie@clearviewbaptist.com.

SEEKING MINISTER OF MUSIC. Church averages over 900 in worship. Multiple services include hymns, choir music and contemporary music. We are praying for a Godly minister who can help lead our church to the next level of worship. Send resumes to search committee, 501 W. Sixth Str., Muscle Shoals, AL 35661.

KOLA HOMESTEAD GUEST HOUSE, Collins, Mississippi, has four bedrooms and can sleep up to fifteen. A fully furnished kitchen is available. Local attractions: Grand Paradise Water Park, Mitchell Farms, Collins Zoo, canoe on the Okatoma, hike or bike on the Rails to Trails. Great for church groups, retreats, (601) 765-8812.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ZACHARY is seeking a full-time Minister of Students. Resumes should be sent to First Baptist Church, 4200 Main St., Zachary, LA 70791, attn: Robert Ballard, or email to rballard47@cox.net. Call Robert at (225) 654-7767 or (225) 505-6132.

STAINWAY PIANO. Upright model 1098; ebony, 1 owner, purchased 1998; \$9,000, (601) 982-4906

COLLEGE NEWS

1. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced its 2006-2007 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) schools. Blue Mountain College's Lady Toppers finished seventh in the ranking. The awards recognize teams throughout the nation that have the highest grade point averages (GPA) for the 2006-2007 season based on nominations submitted by WBCA-member coaches. Blue Mountain College athletes had an average GPA of 3.512. Lavon Driskell is the coach for the Lady Toppers.

2. The Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing at William Carey University hosted a Chapter Chartering and Induction Ceremony recently for the Upsilon Theta Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing. One hundred candidates were inducted into Upsilon Theta including students, WCU alumni, nursing faculty, and nursing community leaders.

3. Three William Carey University students recently participated in the 2007 Miss Mississippi Pageant and two received talent awards. Miss William Carey University Elizabeth Goff of Moss Point tied for winner of the preliminary talent competition held on Wednesday night of the pageant. She was also chosen as a non-finalist talent award winner. Miss Morton Abby Boykin of Taylorsville also received a non-finalist talent award. Miss Pine Belt Holly Williams of Ellisville also participated in the state pageant.

4. "Moses and the Law" is coming soon to Mississippi College's School of Law. Not a legal seminar, it's a tall bronze sculpture that will be unveiled this summer on the downtown Jackson campus. The creation is the largest of MC professor Samuel Gore's nationally celebrated art career that spans more than a half-century. Gore, 80, who began teaching on the main MC campus in Clinton in 1951, is putting the finishing touches on the 12-foot high, eight-foot wide creation that will be installed and followed up with a ceremony open to the public. To be mounted on the exterior wall of a classroom building, the sculpture will be able to be viewed by the public from the sidewalk on Griffith Street.

4. "Moses and the Law" artist Gore, Mississippi College

MS POSITIONS

RIDGEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH in Vicksburg, Miss., is seeking a Bi-vocational pastor. Please send resumes to Ridgeway Baptist Church c/o Jimmy Chester, 331 Dillon Ridge Road, Vicksburg, MS 39183, Attn: pastor search committee.

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH of the Golden Triangle Association is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of youth. Please submit resumes or any pertinent information to hopebapchurch@bellsouth.net, attn: pastor.

BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, Miss., is currently seeking applicants for a full-time stewardship secretary position in the Business Office. The position requires good communication skills and the effective use of computer technology. Knowledge of Shelby Systems applications is a plus. Please send a resume to Tommy Vickers, Business Administrator, P. O. Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205, or email to tvickers@bcj.org.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, is seeking someone to lead congregational singing, and to direct our choir during cantata musicals. If interested, please send your up-to-date resume, along with references, to 814 Marwood Loop SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629. If you have questions, call pastor Rev. Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858.

MT. LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH, Water Valley, Miss., is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational minister. Please submit resume to search committee, 906 Stephens St., Water Valley, MS 38965 or call Betty Melton (662) 473-2095.

BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, seeking a full-time associate pastor of music and worship ministries. Please mail all resumes to Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073, attn: music search committee by 8/27/07.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

CLEAR BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, Miss., seeks a part-time children's minister. Please submit resumes to M. Vance, 129 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Florence, MS 39073.

ROSE HILL FBC, ROSE HILL, MS is seeking a bi-vocational worship leader/minister of music. Please send resumes to Rose Hill FBC P.O. Box 1 Rose Hill, MS 39356, attn: Worship Leader search committee. Or email ebmartin@bayspringstel.net. View website: www.rosehillfbc.org. Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a full-time Minister of Youth and Recreation. Job requires working with youth and children and Scheduling Family-Life Center events: Send resume to Dr. Jim Everett, 3495 Ephesus Road, Forest, MS 39074 or email: jimincebc@earthlink.net.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

When You're Discouraged

1 Kings 19:1-18

By Laura Leathers

Elijah, a prophet of God, needed a time to dwell in the secret place with the Most High (Psalm 91:1, 2). Why? Some would say he had a classic case of burn out while others believe once you've encountered a mountain top experience with God you are more vulnerable for discouragement. Whatever your view, this man became discouraged because his expectations were not met and the same is true for us today.

In order to rise above the pit of discouragement Elijah needed to remember and ...

1. Recognize (1 Kings 19:1-3a) [KJV, 19:1-3]

... what had led to his discouragement. Space does not permit us to dwell on what has occurred in the life of Elijah

(meaning "the LORD is God") three years prior to our Scripture passage. (Read 1 Kings 16:29 through 1 Kings 18:46).

Elijah had been called by God to deal with the problem of Baalism in the land (1 Kings 17:1). Elijah's calling was to confront evil king Ahab (1 Kings 16:33) and his wife Jezebel. He declares there will be a drought, leaves town, and returns almost three years later to make it known that the LORD God in Israel is the one true God. Our focal passage begins with Ahab recounting the day's events to Jezebel. Notice Ahab's comments which focused on "all that Elijah had done, and how he had executed the prophets" — no mention of God. Did Ahab fall on his face on Mount Carmel and say, "The LORD, He is God?"



Leathers

Jezebel sends a messenger to Elijah to threaten his life. "And when he saw that, he arose and ran ..." (vs. 3). Elijah's discouragement set in when he realized nothing had changed. "Elijah expected Jezebel to surrender; when she did not capitulate, he became a discouraged man" (vv. 4, 10, 14) (MacArthur Study Bible, page 507).

2. Refresh (1 Kings 19:3b-9a) [KJV, 19:4-9a]

Elijah needed a time to pull away from the circumstances. After leaving his servant, Elijah travels "a day's journey into the wilderness" and sits under a broom tree. He prays for the LORD to take his life, lies down, and expects Him to comply. Instead the LORD sends an angel, not a raven as previously experienced, to feed his weary body and soul. Notice the angel touched Elijah and the second time he said, "... the journey is too great for you."

Observations: Elijah may have been ready to give up, but

God was not. He is always at work (John 5:17). Next, a personal touch extended can greatly encourage a person. Third, the food which the angel prepared was not only refreshing but it was powerful — spiritual food is our sustenance (vs. 8).

3. Reevaluate (1 Kings 19:9b-13a)

It took Elijah forty days to get to Mount Horeb (alternate name for Mt. Sinai); a journey usually traveled in half the time. John MacArthur writes, "The period had symbolic meaning as well as showing literal time. As the people of Israel had a notable spiritual failure and so wandered 40 years in the wilderness (Num. 14:26-35), so a discouraged Elijah was to spend 40 days in the desert. As Moses had spent 40 days on the mountain without bread and water, sustained only by God as we awaited a new phrase of service (Ex. 34:28), so Elijah was to spend 40 days depending on God's enablement as he prepared for a new commission from the Lord" (MacArthur Study Bible, page 507). Perhaps,

Elijah needed to once again develop a listening heart to hear "the word of the Lord" who spoke in "a still small voice."

4. Reengage (1 Kings 19:15-18)

It is interesting to study the times Elijah pointed out to the LORD that "I alone am left." He forgot about the one hundred prophets Obadiah had rescued (1 Kings 18:4) and how God had seven thousand faithful to Jehovah in Israel. Elijah's calling was not to the masses. Instead he was to anoint three men who would see to the elimination of the worship of Baal.

When we walk by sight and not by faith we are more apt to fall into the pit of discouragement. Possibly you are dealing with unmet expectations. If so, then follow Elijah's footsteps: recognize the source of your discouragement, go to a secret place for refreshment, allow the Word of God to wash over you and reevaluate your situation, and then reengage. It's time to get out of the pit!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Love Wholeheartedly

Malachi 1:1-2, 6-14

By Charles Rodgers

One man said that one of the biggest disappointments in his life came when he was a boy. He saw a large tent set up in a field and thought there was a circus inside. He sneaked in under the flap to watch and discovered that he was in the middle of a revival meeting. However, he experienced an even bigger disappointment as an adult when he went to a church expecting to find revival and discovered that it was nothing more than a circus. It appears that we are confused about what we really need and what we really want in life. Many Christians today seem to want just enough of God to keep them out of hell, or to get them special blessings. Wholehearted devotion and service to God is really not part of their lifestyle. The Christian life for many Christians today is a lot like a

smorgasbord restaurant. They want to be able to go through a line without any obligations and simply choose the experiences with God they want to have.

The emphasis of our lesson passage today is on loving God wholeheartedly by giving Him our best. Malachi presents a contrast between God's love for His people and their lack of love for Him. God wants His people to love Him wholeheartedly, allowing their devotion to Him to influence their attitudes and actions in all areas of life.

1. Do You Trust God's Love? Malachi 1:1-2

The word "oracle" is derived from a Hebrew word meaning to lift up or to bear. The oracle of a prophet may be described very appropriately as his "bur-



Rodgers

den" or "message." Malachi is not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture and all that is known about him has come from his own utterances. We can infer that he was a true prophet and spoke with full authority. He had an intense love for Israel and for the services of the temple, and he had a high conception of the tradition and duties of the priests.

Malachi begins his prophecy by setting before his listeners God's steadfast love. This is the real "burden" of Malachi's message and everything else is to be seen in the light of this truth. The question "How have you loved us?" reveals the absence of trust or an attitude of ingratitude on the part of the people of Israel. God reminds Israel that even though Esau was Jacob's brother, He had chosen Jacob for a covenant relationship. The Lord demonstrated His love for the Israelites by making them His chosen people. We can trust God's love for us because He

redeemed us and brought us into His family of faith.

2. Do You Honor God's Greatness? Malachi 1:6-11

God's greatness is affirmed in 1:5 and 1:11. The Scripture between these two verses questions the respect and reverence that Israel has for God. He utilizes two images indicative of God's relationship with Israel — His fatherhood and His Lordship. Charges included in the passage were that Israel had despised God by not honoring His position, by ritualistic worship, and by offering inadequate sacrifices. The people had failed to honor God by their acts of worship. God expects our best. We can only honor God when we offer Him the best of our time, energy, service and gifts.

3. Do You Love God Wholeheartedly? Malachi 1:12-14

The word "it" in verse 12 refers back to "my name" in verse 11. The accusation here is that by attitude and actions the priests had brought dishonor

upon the name of God. The contempt and scorn of the Israelites was obvious, and it was as if they were counting the whole sacrificial system as worthless. They were simply going through the motions with little or no conviction about what they were doing. They seemed to actually believe that God would accept whatever sacrifice they offered Him. They saw no value or purpose in offering their best to God. Zechariah labeled the man who promised to offer an acceptable sacrifice and then offered a defective animal a deceiver and indicated that he would be accursed, because his offering did not indicate his respect and reverence for God.

God deserves our very best and when we offer less than the best, we show disrespect for Him. We show wholehearted love for God when we repent of unacceptable attitudes and actions and serve Him willingly and joyfully.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

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THE BAPTIST
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BPS ACFBKRYCZBW
EVOKPY DU VDC VI CRG
ZBCGF, RG ABZ CRG RGB-
HGPA VUGPGS, BPS CRG
AUKFKC NKMG B SVHG
SGAEGPSKPY DUVF RKO.

OBFM VPG: CGP

Clue: K = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew One: Twenty-Three.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Covenant Signing, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton



2. Ray sews more than 200 garments for missions, Westside Church, Hazlehurst



3. Bible Drillers, Clear Creek Church, Oxford



4. Baby Dedication, Corinth Church, Purvis

1. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has entered into a covenant agreement for support of Iglesia Hispania de Clinton, with the agreement calling for administration, finances, leadership training, and other support. The new church meets at the old campus of Morrison Heights. Shown are Mark Sandifer; Cosme Arana, pastor of the Hispanic church; Greg Belser, Morrison Heights senior pastor, and Phil Davis.

2. The Pearl Hamilton WMU group of Westside Church, Hazlehurst, recently participated in a mission project called Children Hemmed in Prayer, where garments are made and delivered to a lady in Alabama who takes the clothing to needy children in foreign countries. Shown is Janice Ray, who sewed more than 200 garments herself.

3. Clear Creek Church, Oxford, recognizes its children's state Bible Drill winners. Shown are Mary Bailey Linton, Joshua Redding, T.J. Walker, and Amber Huggins.

4. Corinth Church, Purvis, held a baby dedication day May 13. Shown, from left, are pastor Brad Ford; Amanda and Daniel Anderson with son Dakota; Charo and Will Turner with son Cannon; and Amy and Bryan Newell with daughter Emma.

5. New Beginnings Church, George Association, recently graduated several students from their GED classes for adults 17 years of age and above. Shown are James Cochran, Ronnie Harrison, Amy Hall, Kevin Roberts, and pastor Willie Wimbs.

6. The puppet ministry of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, directed by Kathleen Spears performed their first show May 29. Roy Moody, pastor.

7. Harmony Church, Lincoln County, unveiled a memorial to all U.S. veterans June 30. Shown are the veterans participating.

8. Becky Faulkner, a member of Farmhaven Church, Carthage, is shown with new-found friends she met at a Mexican church during a mission trip sponsored by Calvary Chapel, Parchman, in July.

9. First Church, Ridgeland, is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a 13-week program. The introductory session is Aug. 20, 6 p.m., and is free; the entire program is \$96. Classes begin Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.

www.mbc.org

10. The GAs of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, recently attended GA Camp at Camp Garaywa. Girls participating included Rebekah Wright, Victoria Wilson, Hannah Crosby, Kara Beth Crosby, Heather Crosby, and Shelby Smith.

11. Tate Church, Corinth, is hosting a special worship celebration Aug. 19, 6 p.m., with praise band and celebration choir in a blend of traditional, southern gospel, and contemporary music.



5. GED graduates, New Beginnings Church, George Association



7. Veterans Memorial, Harmony Church, Lincoln County



8. Mexican Mission trip, Farmhaven Church, Carthage